

CLAIMS

1. Ultrasonic wave generation means for producing ultrasonic vibrations of a frequency suitable for at-least limited penetration of soft body tissue, whereby application of said generation means to a suitable contact region on the body of the person may stimulate a reflexive response.
2. Ultrasonic wave generation means as defined in Claim 1, wherein the contact region is a selected portion of the neck (pharynx) of the person and the reflexive response is coughing.
3. Ultrasonic wave generation means as defined in Claim 2, including an ultrasonic transducer adapted for producing mechanical vibrations in response to vibratory electrical input from an electrical oscillator.
4. Ultrasonic wave generation means as defined in Claim 3, including a transducer array of at least two separate wherein said transducers forming said array are held in positions and orientations which maximise contact with the region known to stimulate the desired response.
5. Ultrasonic wave generation means as defined in Claim 4, wherein said transducers are flexibly relative to one another along a flexible mount, or by flexible attachment to a mount.
6. Ultrasonic wave generation means as defined in Claim 5, wherein adjustment means is provided between said transducers and said mount whereby the position of the transducers relative to one another may be optimised to suit a particular neck.
7. Ultrasonic wave generation means as defined in Claim 3, wherein said mount may be detachably fixed to a handle containing all or part of the supporting

electronic components.

8. Ultrasonic wave generation means as defined in claim 3, wherein there is provided contact sensing means for determining the quality of the contact between said transducers and a neck, and contact indicating means for indicating when good contact has been made.
9. A method of inducing a reflexive response in a person or animal, including:- providing ultrasonic wave generation means for producing ultrasonic vibrations of a frequency suitable for at-least limited penetration of soft body tissue, and applying the active portion of said wave generation means to a selected portion of the body of a person or animal, whereby a desired reflexive response may be achieved.
10. A method as defined in claim 9 wherein said selected portion is the neck and said reflexive response is coughing.